N H PAMPHLET COLL.

REPORT

OF

THE SELECTMEN

OF THE

TOWN OF CHESTER,

FOR THE YEAR

1854-5.

MANCHESTER, N. H:
STEAM POWER PRESS OF ABBOTT, JENKS & CO.
1855.

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352.07
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1855

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ACCOUNTS AND EXPENDITURES.

ALMS HOUSE ESTABLISHMENT.

1854.

WM. P. W. WHITTIMORE'S BILL.		
To balance on oxen,	$29 00	$29 00
JOHN S. EMERY'S BILL.		
To mending Boots and Shoes,	1 62	1 62
JOHN POLAND'S BILL.		
To 277 lbs. Fish at 3 cts,	6 81	6 81
EASTMAN & QUINCY'S BILL.		
To one bag meal	1 90	
To one bbl flour	1 75	
Interest	15	11 80
PETER J. HORN'S BILL.		
To 600 lbs Plaster,	2 70	2 70
HIGLAY & PRESCOTT'S BILL.		
To Carding and oiling 25 1-4 lbs wool at 6 cts,	1 52	1 52
C. C. PARKER'S BILL.		
To 2 bags meal	4 00	
To 1 pair Bow pins,	25	
To 1 1-2 bushels Salt,	90	
5 lbs. Rice,	30	
6 1-2 lbs. Sugar,	50	5 95
DANIEL WILLSON'S BILL.		
To use of mill to 20 bbls. Cider,	2 00	
To use of wagon to Derry 6 times,	1 50	3 50
CHARLES WILCOMB'S BILL.		
To 20 lbs fish,	40	
To making well bucket,	50	90
N. WARNER'S BILL.		
To 1 white-wash brush,	1 33	1 33
ARTLETT & FARRER'S BILL.		
To 1 1-2 bushel red top seed,	2 07	
10 lbs. clover,	1 10	3 17

LUTHER HALL'S BILL.

To 1 coffin for J. Burrill,		3 00	3 00

MOSES HALL'S BILL.

To 1 coffin for Sarah Aiken,		3 00	3 00

HENRY WEST'S BILL.

To 40 lbs. pork,		5 00	5 00

EASTMAN & QUINCY'S BILL.

To goods,		3 71	3 71

AMOS GREEN, JR'S BILL.

To 3 cider barrels,		1 50	1 50

DAVID SHAW, JR'S BILL.

To 13 bushels rye, at $1 50,		19 50	19 50

ISAIAH WEST'S BILL.

To beef and mutton,		6 75	6 75

DR. WHITTEMORE'S BILL.

To visits and medicine at alms-house,		8 59	8 59

DANIEL BELL'S BILL.

To beef at sundry times,		22 58	22 58

ROBERT SHIRLEY'S BILL.

To meat at sundry times,		10 58	10 58

JAMES M. KENT'S BILL.

1854.			
Feb. 14,	To repairing sleigh,	17	
April 20,	To shoeing horse,	40	
27,	Repairing wheelbarrow,	44	
May 4,	Whiffletree irons and mending chains,	34	
June 2,	1 fetter's chain,	67	
7,	Shoeing oxen and horse,	53	
July 24,	" "	83	
Aug. 10,	" Oxen,	1 00	
11,	Tiring cart wheel,	75	
Sept. 21,	Shoeing horse,	58	
Oct. 16,	Repairing plow,	55	
Nov. 22,	Shoeing horse,	58	
	" Oxen,	1 38	
Dec. 25,	Mending whiffletree,	10	
28,	Shoeing oxen,	33	
1855.			
Jan. 11,	Setting 1 shoe,	08	
13,	Shoeing horse,	45	
Feb.	Setting 1 shoe,	07	
			$9 27

WILLIAM GREENOUGH'S BILL.

1854.			
April 20,	To 29 gall. molasses, 28,	8 12	
	1 lb. Y. H. tea,	50	
	7 yds. calico, 12 1-2,	88	
29,	1-4 lb. snuff,	06	
	3 cakes shaving soap,	15	
	9 1-2 yds. calico, 12 1-2,	1 19	
May 4,	4 lbs. gr. coffee,	50	
	2 lbs. saleratus,	12	
	cotton thread,	17	
11,	1 oz. linen thread,	10	

	1 lb. pepper,	20
23,	1 lb. Y. H. tea,	50
	1 paper gar. seeds,	05
June 2,	4 lbs. gr. coffee,	50
	1 lb. ginger,	12
8,	2 bush. corn,	2 05
July 5,	10 yds. calico,	1 25
	3 denims,	37
6,	1 lb. Y. H. tea,	50
	1 oz. turnip seed,	06
	1 hay fork,	58
24,	1 bbl. flour,	9 75
	1 bag meal,	2 00
	1 broom,	18
Aug. 11,	300 crackers,	1 00
12,	1 bag meal,	1 95
23,	2 yds. calico,	25
25	200 crackers,	1 00
	5 lbs. sugar,	38
Sept. 6,	1 qt. oil,	25
Oct. 4,	1-2 bush. salt,	35
	3 lbs. saleratus,	18
7,	15 yds. sheeting, 9,	1 35
	1 bag meal,	2 00
18,	1 bag meal,	2 00
	2 1-2 lbs. sugar,	20
	1 lb. sugar,	12
	1-2 lb. coperas,	04
Nov. 9,	1 bed cord,	28
23,	12 gall. molasses, 32,	3 84
	1 qt oil,	25
	1 lb. tea,	50
	1 pr. steel yards,	58
	2 lbs. rosin,	06
27,	3 lbs. raisins,	37
	1-2 lb. pimento,	10
	1-4 lb. cloves,	10
	1-2 cassia,	20
	1 oz. nutmegs,	10
	1-2 lb. snuff,	14
	40 crackers,	20
Dec. 1,	7 1-4 lbs. coffee,	1 00
	2 lbs. saleratus	12
	6 1-2 lbs. sugar,	50
6,	1 lb. tea,	50
	3 pairs leather mittens, 50 each,	1 50
	5 lbs. tobacco 20,	1 00
15,	1 bbl. flour,	11 25
25,	1 broom,	25
	3 yards red flannel, 37 1-2,	1 12
	Lot cotton thread,	24
30,	1 lb. tea,	50
	1 lb. soap,	10
	1 oz. linen thread,	10

	1 comb,	06	
	3 cakes soap,	15	
	150 crackers,	50	
1855.			
Jan. 1,	1 pair shoes,	88	
12,	13 lbs. sugar,	1 00	
	2 lbs. Y. H. tea,	1 00	
	2 lbs. salaratus,	12	
13,	2 yards cambric,	46	
	1-2 yd muslin,	21	
	1 yd ribbon,	04	
	1 qt. oil,	25	
22,	7 1-4 lbs. coffee,	1 00	
Feb. 2,	200 crackers,	1 00	
			$72 54
1854.	CREDIT.		
May 4,	By 11 lbs. tallow,	1 21	
	6 2-3 doz. eggs,	93	
23,	7 1-6 doz. eggs, 14,	1 00	
J'ly 24,	By cash,	10 00	13 14
			$59 40

ISAAC C. SARGENT'S BILL

1854.		
Feb. 15,	To 12 gals. molasses, 30 cts.	3 60
25,	1 lb. tea, 50, 13 lbs. sugar, 1,00	1 50
Mar. 8,	4 lbs. saleratus,	28
8,	22 lbs. cod fish, 6,	1 32
11,	4 lbs. tobacco, 21,	88
11,	1 qr. oil,	25
11,	8 lbs. coffee, 9,	1 00
11,	1 bbl. flour,	9 75
April 6,	42½ yds. sheeting, 8½,	3 62
6,	1 lb. tea,	50
6,	10 lbs. tobacco, 22,	2 20
6,	100 lbs. cod fish,	4 50
6,	8 ozs. paregoric,	25
6,	1 ivory comb,	14
6,	120 crackers,	50
20,	12½ lbs. sad irons, 6¼,	78
20,	56 crackers,	25
26,	6¼ lbs. sugar,	50
26,	2 pr. shoes, 70,	1 40
May 4,	1 milk pan,	12
4,	1 pint spirits,	11
11,	1 bed cord,	28
11,	1-4 lb. sal nitre,	03
23,	1 pt. spirits, 11, 1 pt. seeds, 5,	16
20,	1 bag salt, 25, 1 pr. shoes, 70,	95
29,	2 balls twine, 14, 1 C. S. hoe,	59
31,	2 balls twine,	14
June 2,	1 bbl. flour,	11 00
2,	1 lb. hops, 20, 2 lbs. nails,	30
8,	6 bags corn, 2,05,	12 30
10,	112 crackers,	50
17,	2 lbs. saleratus,	14

July 1,	1 C. S. Scythe,	92
1,	3 rifles,	22
3,	4 13-16 lbs. cotton warp, 25,	1 20
14,	36 lbs. pork, 9d,	4 50
14,	2 bus. salt, 16½,	1 33
20,	2 lbs. saleratus,	14
22,	1 lb. tea,	50
24,	4 ozs. paregoric,	16
24,	2 brown chambers,	20
26,	4 bus. rye meal,	6 50
31,	38 lbs. porks 12½,	4 75
Aug. 4,	1 lb. tea, 50, 1 bag salt, 25,	75
4,	2 bags meal, 1,95,	3 90
4,	1 pt. spirits, 10, 2 lbs. nails, 12,	22
4,	100 lbs. dun fish,	5 50
10,	7 yds. sheeting, 9,	63
10,	1 ball wicking,	06
11,	½ pt. cherry brandy,	25
18,	6½ lbs sugar,	50
18,	2 trace chains,	75
18,	11 lbs. tobacco, 21,	2 21
21,	2 bags meal, 2,00,	4 00
29,	2 bags meal, 2,12½,	4 25
29,	4 lbs. coffee, 14,	56
29,	1 lb. tea,	50
Sept. 6,	1 bbl. flour,	11 00
12,	2 bags meal, 2,20,	4 40
	6 gals. molasses, 30,	1 80
	6 lights glass ,3,	18
	2 lbs. whiting,	06
	1 pt. oil, 13, 1 oz. camphor, 8,	21
15,	13 lbs. pork, 12½	1 62
	13 lbs. sugar,	1 00
	22 skeins cotton,	10
21,	8 ozs. paregoric,	25
	1 bu. salt,	70
26,	7 1-5 lbs. coffee,	1 00
	1 lb. tea, 50, 1 qt. oil, 25,	75
	1 pitcher,	30
Oct. 4,	200 crackers,	1 00
7,	1 bag salt,	28
12,	1 pt. linseed oil,	13
	1-2 pt. spirits,	05
16,	6 gals. molasses,	1 92
	1 qt. oil,	25
25,	2 lbs tea, 50,	1 00
31,	2 qts. oil, 50, 1 oz. nutmeg, 10,	60
	3 1-2 lbs. coffee,	50
	3 yds. blue sheeting, 11,	33
	3 yds. white cambric,	17
	1 chamber,	30
	1 stone bean pot,	25
	12 skeins cotton,	06
Nov. 9,	1 bu. salt,	70

	3 lbs. nails, 18, 1-2 pt. paregoric, 25,	43	
13,	1 qt. alcohol,	25	
22,	1 lb. pepper,	18	
	1 pr. thick boots,	3 00	
Dec. 7,	1 bu. salt,	70	
11,	1 pt. oil, 13, 1 ball wicking, 6,	19	
	1-4 gro. matches,	18	
15,	1 bottle Buchan's Balsam,	90	
16,	1 lb. tea,	50	
Dec. 25,	To 3 pipes, 2, 1 almanac, 5,	07	
30,	1 pt. mug.	14	
	1 bottle Pain Killer,	25	
1855.			
Jan. 6,	2 balls wicking,	10	
	1 doz. buttons,	08	
12,	1-2 bu. salt,	35	
		——	142 64

CREDIT.

Jan. 8,	By cash,	10 00	
July 14,	5 doz. eggs,	70	
29,	cash,	5 00	
Dec. 6,	8 pr. feetings,	4 12	
		——	19 82
			122 82

GEORGE WEST'S BILL.

1854.			
April 14,	To paid J. Shirley for altering hogs,	37	
28,	16 lbs. ham, at 12½ cts.,	2 00	
May 1,	1-4 gro. matches,	15	
14,	16 bus. potatoes, 60,	9 60	
	1 1-2 bus. barley,	1 50	
July 1,	Amos Stevens for cider,	2 00	
5,	73 lbs. pork, 12 1-2,	9 12	
	50 lbs. meal,	1 12	
	1 cow,	30 00	
	Dudley & Parker for tin,	64	
	A. Hazelton, 1 bag meal,	1 40	
	do. 50 lbs. rye meal,	1 62	
	Moses Hall, repairing oven,	1 00	
	A. Haselton for sawing,	50	
	A. Green, repairing saws,	25	
		——	61 27
	self and wife's services from April 1, 1854, to April 1, 1855,	180 00	180 00
			618 22

CREDIT.

By cash received of Dr. West for labor,	40 00	

Robert Shirley,	4 50	
Isaiah West,	6 75	
David Shaw, Jr.,	19 50	
Amos Green, Jr.,	20 00	
Daniel Bell for calves,	7 00	
Isaiah West for lambs,	12 00	
J. M. Kent,	1 83	
Daniel Bell,	7 50	
Wm. Greenough,	3 14	
I. C. Sargent,	4 82	
Auburn for paupers,	114 00	
Co. of Rockingham,	98 00	
Noah Clark for support mother,	14 00	
Cash drawn from Treasurer to balance,	265 18	
		618 22

CHESTER, FEB. 15, 1855.

This day met at Alms House and took account of stock, which was as follows :

Average number of paupers at the alms house during the year, is 19 ; present number, 18 ; two belong to Auburn ; two belong to County. The following is a list of inmates now in the alms house, and their ages. Jonathan Berry, 81, Nelson Hills, 37, Dolley Gross, 71, Elizabeth M. Little, 74, Abigail Lane, 47, Abigail Bryant, 31, Sally Wharf, 66, Joseph Carr, 89, Ruth Carr, 85, John Mills, 69, John Dunlap, 65, Fidelia Poor, 20, Sarah J. Poor, 4, Hannah Morse, 28, Mary J. Morse, 7, Charles Morse, 2 Joel Estabrook, 67, Joshua Little, 56.

The stock on farm consists of one yoke of oxen, five cows, one horse, 11 sheep, five shoats. Provisions ; corn 50 bushels ears, pork 1 barrel, ham 60 pounds, beef 1 barrel, lard 40 pounds, cheese 50 pounds, tallow 15 pounds, dried apples 82 pounds, potatoes 80 bushels, beans 3 bushels, barley 2 bushels, cider 8 barrels, fish 60 pounds, hay 6 tons.

POOR OFF THE FARM.

JOHN MOORE'S BILL.

To board of Mary A. Moore,	57 20	57 20

JACOB P. WHITTEMORE'S BILL.

To visits and medicines		
to F. Underhill's family,	20 00	
to Orren Lakin,	14 00	
to Ryan,	3 75	
to Miss Morse,	1 75	
to A. West,	1 00	
		40 50

	F. V. DOW'S BILL.		
	To board and nursing Oren Laiken,	82 50	82 50
	TOWN OF LOUDON'S BILL.		
	For the support of Tappan Blaisdell family,	9 07	9 07
	WM. GREENOUGH'S BILL.		
	To goods delivered to the Miss Morses,	21 73	21 73
	NOAH WEEKS' BILL.		
	To 9 cords wood delivered to Ednah Morse,	22 03	22 03
	JACOB CHASE'S BILL.		
	To 6 ft. wood for Miss Morse,	2 25	2 25
	FREDERICK UNDERHILL'S BILL.		
	To 13 ft. wood delivered Ednah Morse,	3 25	
	cutting the same,	1 00	
		——	4 25
	I. C. SARGENT'S BILL.		
	To goods deliv'd Morse girls,	5 20	5 50
	J. M. KENT'S BILL.		
	To 2 lbs. Butter,	44	
	175 cts. cash delivered,	1 75	
		——	2 19
	WM. GREENOUGH'S BILL.		
February	To goods delivered the Morse girls,	4 81	4 81
	DR. WHITTEMORE'S BILL.		
	To visit and medicine for Mrs. Aiken,	2 50	2 50
	JOHN W. NOYES' BILL.		
	To 11 feet wood delivered Mrs. Blaisdell,	4 81	4 81
	WM. GREENOUGH'S BILL.		
1854.			
Aug. 2,	To goods delivered the West family,	6 63	6 63
	TOWN OF NASHUA'S BILL.		
	To support of Mrs. Betsey West, from Dec. 8, 1854, to Feb. 12, 1855,	20 00	20 00
	DR. DEARBORN'S BILL.		
Dec. 8,	To boarding John Underhill 31 weeks, at $1 per week,	31 00	31 00
	JOHN B. RAND'S BILL.		
	To boarding John Underhill 5 1-2 weeks,	5 42	5 42
1851 & 1852	THOMAS McDUFFEE'S BILL.		
	To sawing wood for Mrs. Blaisdell, 6 cords,	6 00	6 00
	ADALINE CHASE'S BILL.		
	To Board of Mr. Ryan,	2 00	2 00
	DAVID S. CHASE'S BILL.		
	To nursing Mr. Ryan 6 days,	5 00	5 00
	NOAH WEEK'S BILL.		
Feb. 5,	To 15 1-2 lbs. pork, delivered the Morse girls,	1 94	
	1 bu. potatoes, " "	67	2 61
	JOHN LOVETT'S BILL.		
	To coffin for Edwin West,	3 50	
	C. Whidden for digging grave,	1 50	5 00

I. C. SARGENT'S BILL

To goods delivered A. West,	1 21	1 21
		$84 87

IMPROVEMENTS ON HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES.

1854.	BENJ. DAVIS JR.'S BILL.		
April,	To 4 1-2 day's work on bridge in Dis. No. 2,	4 50	4 50
	GEO. S. UNDERHILL'S BILL.		
	To 6 days' work on bridge in Dis. No. 2.	6 00	6 00
	WM. P. WHITTEMORE'S BILL.		
	To 5 days' work on bridge,	5 00	
	oxen 2 days' "	1 67	
	2 covering stones,	3 00	
		——	9 67
	A. S. DEARBORN'S BILL.		
	To work on bridge,	3 13	
	timber and plank,	85	
	1 covering stone,	3 00	
		——	6 98
	PETER HASELTON'S BILL.		
	To 6 days' work on bridge,	5 00	
	plank for bridge,	50	
	paid Moses Webster for work,	1 00	
	Amos Green,	13	
	Samuel Carr,	17	
		——	6 80
	N. S. MORSE'S BILL.		
	To 1-3 day's work drawing stone for bridge,	1 00	1 00
	CALEB WHIDDEN'S BILL.		
	To furnishing light on bridge 4 nights,	50	50
	J. M. KENT'S BILL.		
	To 2 days' work on bridge,	2 00	
	paid Benja. Chase for block,	50	
		——	2 50
	JONA. SHAW'S BILL		
April 11	To work on bridge	30	
Aug 11	self and oxen 1 day	1 67	
		——	1 97
	WM P UNDERHILL'S BILL		
June 14	To self & oxen repairing bridge in Dist No 1	2 25	2 25
	ANDERSON HOLMAN'S BILL		
Sept 11	To 1 day's work in Dist No 11	1 25	1 25
	SIMON HASELTON'S BILL		
	To 1 day's work in Dist No 11	1 25	
	1 dinner and horse bating	50	
		——	1 75
	GEO WEEKS' BILL		
Aug 19	To 200 and 65 feet of chestnut plank at 1 1-4 cts	3 31	3 31
	BENNAIAH SPOFFORD'S BILL		
	To 306 feet at 1,40 per hundred,	4 28	4 28
	SIMON M. SANBORN'S BILL		
	To labor in Dist No 10	1 75	1 75

1852	WM TENNY'S BILL		
June	To 225 feet oak plank	4 00	4 00
1854	KIMBALL & HASELTON'S BILL		
	To 80 feet bridge plank	1 20	
	3 stringers for Dist No 17	3 00	
	1028 ft bridge plank	15 42	
	2 stringers for Dist No 3	2 00	
	2 day's work laying stringers	2 00	
	MOSES HALL'S BILL		
	To 2 stringers for bridge in Dist No 17	1 50	
	drawing the same	50	
	labor on bridge	38	
		——	2 38
	MRS WHIDDEN'S BILL		
	To 10 dinners while at work on bridge in Dist No 2	2 50	2 50
	DANIEL WILSON'S BILL		
	To 1 stringer for bridge,	1 00	1 00
	RUFUS W MOORE'S BILL		
	To 1 day's work on bridge in Dist No 11	1 00	1 00
			89 01

NON RESIDENT TAXES WORKED OUT.

JOHN S COUCH'S BILL		
To working out tax on my list	6 14	
NOAH WEEK'S BILL		
To working out tax in Dist No 14	84	
WM P UNDERHILL'S BILL		
To working out tax on my list	60	
NATHANIEL SLEEPER'S BILL		
To working out tax on my list	1 21	
PETER HASELTON'S BILL		
To working out tax on my list	10 00	
JOHN MORSE'S BILL		
To non resident tax worked out	13 86	
To non resident tax worked out	3 78	
Benj Poor non resident tax worked out	94	
	———	37 37
STATE AND COUNTY TAX.		
Paid Walter Harriman	231 00	
W H Dudley	383 94	
	———	614 94
STATIONERY		
For books and stationery	1 45	1 45
HALL FOR TOWN MEETINGS		
A G QUIGG'S BILL.		
To use of hall the past year	15 00	15 00

POSTAGE

	To postage to date	80	80

TOWN AND SCHOOL REPORTS
ABBOTT, JENKS & CO'S BILL

March 1	To printing 300 town reports	24 00	24 00

DEBTS PAID

	E Orcutt note and interest	183 00	
	Walter Basford do.	125 76	
			308 76

WM P UNDERHILL'S BILL

	To time and expenses at Manchester to get town report printed	4 81	4 81

HEARSE AND GRAVE TOOLS
CALEB WHIDDEN'S BILL

	To taking care of hearse and tools	2 00	
	J M Kent for repairing tools	50	
	PETER HASELTON'S BILL		
	To mending and oiling harness	2 00	
	Thomas Morse for repairing bier	33	
			4 83

ENROLLING THE MILITIA
JOHN P WHIDDEN'S BILL

	To enrolling and returning 1st company of Infantry in Chester	2 00	2 00

TOWN CLERK'S SERVICES
WM GREENOUGH'S BILL

	To services as town clerk	10 00	
	paid Dr Whittemore for return of births and deaths for 1853 & '54	4 75	
			14 75

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE
HORACE WEBSTER'S BILL

	For the support of Teachers' Institute	14 85	14 85

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S BILL

	Lauren Armsby for services as superintending school committee	10 00	10 00
			1016 19

SCHOOL MONEY

Paid District No 1	127 50	

	2	62 35	
	3	76 85	
	4	35 89	
	5	25 50	
	6	38 00	
	7	46 85	
	8	52 34	
	9	24 26	
	10	25 88	
	11	27 63	
	1 in Auburn	7 00	
			550 05

SCHOOL HOUSE TAX

DANIEL SANBORN'S BILL

Dec 30	To school house tax Dist No 9	88 61	88 61

DANIEL SANBORN'S BILL

	To 1 day showing selectmen the non resident land and dinners for same	1 10	1 10

REMITTANCE OF TAXES

Heirs of Steven Clay	1 70	
Chas Clay	1 49	
Tillotson Forsaith	1 44	
Benjamin Fittz	1 44	
Jesse G Hall	1 44	
Warren Peabody	1 44	
Jacob Randall	1 44	
Taylor & Bailey	5 07	
Benjamin Eastman	1 99	
Hills Stevens	1 44	
Charles Stevens	56	
Sylvester Sanborn	1 40	
John Bell's tax 1853	6 14	
		26 84

COLLECTOR'S-SERVICES.

JOHN MORSE'S BILL

To collecting $2,271.58 at 1 and 30-100 per cent	29 53	29 53
Town Treasurer's bill	5 00	5 00
		701 23

SELECTMEN'S EXPENSES.

1854.

JOHN S. BROWN'S BILL.

To dinners and horse bating,	4 64

JAMES M. KENT'S BILL.

	Expense while taking invoice,	1 90	
April	12 dinners for selectmen,	2 40	
March	4 dinners and 2 horse batings,	1 05	
1855.			
Feb. 12	Horse and sleigh to Nashua,	2 00	
	Expense do. do.	62	
	do. do. do. Exeter,	2 12	10 09
	RUFUS W. MOORE'S BILL		
	Expense while taking invoice,	52	
Sept.	Horse and wagon and expenses to Exeter,	1 75	2 27
	AUSTIN G. MERRIL'S BILL.		
	Expenses while taking invoice,	40	40
			17 40

SELECTMEN'S SERVICES.

1854.

JAMES M. KENT'S BILL.

Mar. 15,	½ day to organize,	50
20,	1-2 day at alms house,	50
30,	1 day preparing invoice book,	1 00
Apr.	3 days taking invoice,	3 00
	Furnishing supplies Mrs. Morris.	50
7,	1 day do. do. do.	1 00
8,	1 do. do. do. do.	1 00
11,	1 do. do. do. do.	1 00
22–24,	2 days copying invoice,	2 00
	4 do. making taxes,	4 00
	1 do. copying,	1 00
May 18–19,	2 do. making taxes,	2 00
20,	1 do. school house tax,	1 00
June 10,	1-2 day at Miss Morse's,	50
19	1-2 day on town business,	50
Sept. 2	do. do. do.	50
Oct. 10	2 days to Sanbornton,	2 00
16	1-2 day at Miss Morse's,	50
20	3 days at Sanbornton and Hooksett,	3 00
Nov. 10	1-2 day on town business,	50
Dec. 29	1-2 day revising juror box,	50
30	1 day at Brown's settlement,	1 00
1855.		
Jan. 12	1-2 day at alms house,	50
20	1 do at Browns,	1 00
Feb 3	1 do do	1 00
12	1 do at Nashua on pauper case	1 00
13	1 do preparing accounts for press,	1 00
14	1 do at alms house,	1 00
16	1-2 do on pauper case,	50
	1-2 do preparing county bills,	50
17	1 do do accounts for press,	1 00
19	1 do do do	1 00
20	1 1-2 days to Exeter for county money	1 50
22	1 day settling with Collector	1 00

23	1 do preparing warrants and check list	1 00		
24	1 do do accounts for press	1 00		
26	1 do with auditors	1 38		
Mar 10	1-2 day correcting check list	50	42 38	

RUFUS W. MOORE'S BILL.

1854.			
Mar 15	1-2 day to organize	50	
20	do do at alms house	50	
April 3-4	2 do taking invoice	2 00	
6-11	3 do do do	3 00	
24-25	2 do making taxes	2 00	
26	1-2 do pauper case	50	
27	1-2 do distributing H. Warrants	50	
May 18-19	2 do making taxes	2 00	
30	1 do school-house taxes	1 00	
June 13	1-2 do alms house	50	
Sept 2	1-2 do town business	50	
22	1 do at Exeter, pauper case	1 00	
Dec 26	1-2 do revising juror box	50	
30	1 do at J S Brown's, settling accounts	1 00	
1855.			
Jan 17	½ day at almshouse	50	
20	1 day at J. S. Brown's settling accounts	1 00	
Feb 3	1 do do do do	1 00	
5	1-2 do at Miss Morse's	50	
14	1 do at alms house	1 00	
16	1-2 do pauper case	50	
22	1 do preparing check list	1 00	
26	1 do with auditors, and expenses	1 36	
Mar 10	1-2 do correcting check list	50	22 88

AUSTIN G. MERRILL'S BILL.

1854.			
Mar 15	1-2 day to organize	50	
20	1-2 do at alms house	50	
Apr 3-5	2 do taking invoice	2 00	
6-7	2 do do do	2 00	
11	1 do do do	1 00	
26-27	2 do making taxes	2 00	
May 20	1 do do do	1 00	
June 19	1-2 do town business	50	
Aug 29	1 do pauper case	1 00	
Nov 11	1-2 do town business	50	
Dec 26	1-2 do revising juror box,	50	
30	1 do settling accounts	1 00	
1855.			
Jan 20	1 do do do	1 00	
Feb 3	1 do do do	1 00	
14	1 do at alms house	1 00	
22	1 do preparing accounts for press	1 00	
24	1-2 do preparing check list	50	
26	1 do with auditors and expense	1 38	
Mar 10	1-2 do correcting list	50	18 88
			84 14

TOWN OF CHESTER IN ACCOUNT WITH
JAMES M. KENT, TREASURER.

1854.				
Feb 27	To Paid	net expense of town farm	265 18	
	do	expense of poor off farm	343 91	
	do	improvements in h. ways & bridges	89 01	
	do	non-resident tax worked out	37 37	
	do	State and County taxes	614 94	
	do	stationery	1 45	
	do	hall for town meeting	15 00	
	do	postage	80	
	do	town and school reports	24 00	
	do	debts paid	308 76	
	do	William P. Underhill's bill	4 81	
	do	school house tax	88 61	
	do	grave and hearse tools	4 83	
	do	enrolling militia	2 00	
	do	town clerk's services	10 00	
	do	recording deaths and births	4 75	
	do	teacher's institute	14 85	
	do	superintending school committee	10 00	
	do	school money	550 05	
	do	Daniel Sanborn's bill	1 10	
	do	remittance of taxes	26 94	
	do	cellector's services	29 53	
	do	treasurer's services	5 00	
	do	selectmen's expenses	17 40	
	do	selectmen's services	84 14	
	do	auditor's expenses	4 14	
				2,558 57
Amount in treasurer's and collector's hands				593 23
				3,151 80

1855.			Cr.
	Received of State Treasurer	101 18	
	do County do	134 57	
	Amount in the hands of treasurer and collector as reported last year	644 47	
			3151 80
The town owes the following sums and interest cast up to March 1, 1855.			
	Josiah Seavey's note at	1320 44	
	Lucien Kent	121 88	
	James M. Kent	107 98	
	Jacob Chase	110 95	
	School district No 4	158 20	
The following sums due the town:			
	A. S. Dearborn's note	254 40	
	From town of Hooksett	96 50	
	In the hands of treasurer and collector	593 23	944 13
	The town owes more than is due		975 18

CHESTER, Feb. 26, 1855.

We, the undersigned, have this day examined the foregoing accounts of the Selectmen and Town Treasurer, and find the same correctly cast, with proper vouchers for the several charges.

OSGOOD RICHARDS,
WM. P. UNDERHILL, } AUDITORS.
HIRAM PRESSEY,

SCHOOL REPORT.

The only opportunities for systematic mental culture which the great mass of the rising generation will ever enjoy, are to be found in our common schools. The knowledge of the elementary branches of education which they do not obtain there, they will not obtain at all. These schools must be supported, or general ignorance will prevail. Without them a majority would not even learn to read their native language.—Regarding our primary schools in this light, we shall not be likely to over-estimate their importance. An ignorant population will be characterized by indolence and vice. They will be the slaves of their senses, and fit tools for the demagogue. Such men could not be the proper depositaries of our inheritance of liberty, nor worthy representatives of the honored fathers who have bequeathed it to us. To be a truly free, prosperous and happy people, we must be an intelligent people. Our best interests require, not only that our common schools should be supported, but that they also should be greatly improved.

What is needed in order to accomplish an end so desirable? To attain this object, the first and most pressing want is better teachers. No other persons have so direct and powerful an influence in determining the character of our schools. Teachers are the ruling spirits in the school-room. Their example is the model for the pupils, their decision the end of controversy. To the teacher is made the ultimate appeal in all doubtful points in regard to the pronunciation and significance of words, the rules of arithmetic, and the facts of geography and grammar. A teacher not possessing the necessary knowledge may not only fail to impart positive truth, but inculcate actual falsehood. If a teacher is lacking in energy, his pupils will be. If the teacher seems to regard it as the great object to glide over his duties as easily as possible, with the least expenditure of toil and time that the nature of the case will admit

of, the scholars will think it desirable to make their studies as light and superficial as they can. If, on the other hand, the teacher gives his whole heart to his work, the pupils are almost sure to catch his spirit. Their progress will be in proportion to his enlightened zeal. Teaching has been too often regarded as a wearisome drudgery that must be submitted to for a few leisure weeks in the year, in order to procure money to aid in spending the rest of the time in a more agreeable manner. Teaching should be considered a noble and responsible profession that should be pursued for high and noble ends. Teaching is perhaps the only business which the community think can be rightly performed without learning how to do it. The requisite knowledge for this employment, it seems to be thought, comes to all by instinct. We will not employ a physician unless he is, as we term it, well read; nor a lawyer, unless he has spent much time in gaining an acquaintance with the principles and practice of law; nor will we admit a man into the pulpit unless he has passed years in acquiring the ability to preach. Our shoes, our hats, our coats, our houses—everything of the kind must be made by those who have served an apprenticeship to their several trades. But we permit young men, fresh from the farm, the workshop and college (the last often with the poorest qualifications,) and young women from the seminary or their homes, who have never spent an hour with the direct design of preparing themselves for their work, to take charge of our public schools. We are not willing to set a man to hoeing corn or digging a ditch, unless he is skilled in these species of labor. No female can be trusted to make our butter and cheese, unless she is an accomplished dairy woman. But young men and young women yet in their teens, wholly inexperienced and uninstructed in this department of labor, are often charged with the responsible duty of forming the minds and characters of our sons and daughters. This gross inconsistency is beginning to be felt. Some efforts are made to correct it.—Teachers' Institutes, though wholly inadequate, do something in preparing teachers for their work. The time, we think, is approaching, when the community in general will think that it requires as much time and as favorable opportunities to learn to teach a child as to shoe a horse, and that, of the two, the former is of much greater consequence. We are not disposed to blame teachers very much for not being better qualified for their labors. Adequate facilities have not been afforded them for this object. Higher qualifications have not been demanded or paid for. Public sentiment is in fault. When this is as it should be, teaching will be looked upon as a profession that must be mastered before it is entered upon. Still, if teachers had higher views of the importance of their employment; if they would avail themselves more fully of the limited facilities already at their command for acquiring a fitness for their duties; if they would devote themselves to these duties with greater zeal and patience, they would be far more successful, and effect a much larger amount of good. Let us not be understood in these remarks, to reflect particularly upon those who have taught in town during the last year. In most instances we believe them worthy of special commendation.

Once more: in order to effect so desirable an object as the improvement of our common schools, another pressing want is, better scholars. We do not mean by this, scholars with greater natural endowments, for we are only alluding to defects that can be remedied, and the children of this community would doubtless compare well in native talant with

children anywhere. But we need scholars more punctual, more docile, more industrious, more in love with knowledge and more determined to acquire it. It is impossible that pupils who are habitually tardy; who are absent perhaps every other day; whose good behavior is confined to the moments when the eyes of their instructors rest upon them, and who study mischief, instead of studying their books, should constitute good schools, although they have the best teachers the world can furnish. All the advantages in the world cannot make those wise, who will not make an appropriate use of the advantages at their disposal for gaining wisdom. Still, as a general truth, children are what surrounding circumstances make them. We shall have better scholars when all the other parties concerned perform their several duties better.

But again: in order to improve our common schools, there are needed better parents. We mean parents who will take a deeper interest in the education of their children, and be at more pains and expense to promote it. Parents do not, to any great extent, feel the importance of having their children educated in the best possible manner. They seem to think their whole duty is discharged when they have provided a building—a very comfortless one, perhaps, built on a very comfortless spot, close by the travelled thoroughfare, without a tree to soften the fierce heat of summer or break the furious blasts of winter—have procured the services of a master or mistress, put a few books into the hands of their children and sent them to school in the morning. Perhaps they make no inquiries in regard to the progress that is made; they do nothing to encourage the teacher; they never visit the school. If they had hired some one to cultivate for them a field of potatoes, they would manifest much more concern in the progress and results of his labor, than they do in the success of the individual employed to educate their offspring. Work of greater moment is not given to us on earth than that of training our children aright. All the exertion and expenditure requsite for this should be most cheerfully made. Can a better use be made of money than, by means of it, to give our sons and daughters a thorough education? If parents had a juster appreciation of the worth of intellectual culture, the town would raise a larger annual amount for schools. We should not content ourselves with obeying the requirements of the law, but should do much more than we are obliged to do for this object. All the schooling that is now enjoyed in some districts does not exceed two or three months in the year. They ought to have schools at least half of the time.

If parents had an appropriate interest in education, we should have, in most instances, better school houses—better constructed, in better taste, with better ventilation and superior conveniences of every kind. It is said that in the early settlement of this country, dwellings were often made simply by digging cellars and raising roofs over them, the earth forming the floors and walls. This was a great saving of timber, labor and expense. But our fathers were content with such rude habitations only till they were able to build those of a superior character. We should be ashamed to live in such houses now. We question, however, whether some of the school houses in this town are at all to be preferred to the primitive models built for school purposes a century ago.—We believe barns for cattle and pens for swine are more apt to be in keeping with the progress of the age, than school houses for our children. So, too, if parents felt a deeper interest in the education of their children, greater care would be taken in the selection of teachers,

more assistance would be afforded them in the performance of their arduous duties, and the children would be more punctual in their attendance and more earnest in prosecuting their studies. We can hardly calculate what a vigorous and healthful impulse would be given to education, if parents were altogether what they should be.

Finally, in order to improve our common schools, there are needed better committees,—both the special agents of the several districts and those who have the general superintendence. Every one who serves as prudential committee occupies an important position. He should carefully and conscientiously perform the services assigned to him, strictly complying with the letter and spirit of the laws which define his duties. It should not be his object to provide employment for a relative or friend, but to secure the very best teacher he can. He should see that the school house is in good repair, and that suitable provision is made for warming it. He should be careful to give the superintending committee suitable notice when the schools will begin and close.

We are disposed to magnify somewhat the office of superintending school committee. We believe that the faithful and judicious performance of their duties must be of great advantage to our common schools. We are profoundly sensible of the deficiencies of those who have acted in this capacity in this town for some years back, and are inclined to rebuke them sharply, as we are sure they will receive merited censure from us in the spirit of meekness. We would earnestly recommend the town to appoint better men to this office, and can assure them the present committee will gladly resign their posts to more competent, and worthier successors. Whoever shall perform these duties for the future, we trust will do it with greater efficiency and wisdom.

To these general remarks we add a more particular statement of the various schools:

DISTRICT No. 1.—Prudential Committee, Dr. Jacob P. Whittemore. Summer term,—teachers, Miss Joanna A. Picket and Miss Susan D. Haselton. Length of school, 15 weeks. Amount expended, $63 49. No. of scholars, 64; average attendance, 50.

We were highly pleased with the appearance of this school at a visit we made in the midst of the session We were expecting that it would be seen at the closing examination that the teachers had succeeded admirably in this difficult school. But unfortunately the teacher was taken sick before the close of the term, and another individual took her place. One member of your committee was out of town, and another sick at the ending of the school, and we can only say, therefore, that we have no doubt the teacher who taught the last few weeks, from her long experience and high reputation, did as well as could be expected under the unfavorable circumstances.

Winter term,—teacher, Benjamin F. Prescott. Length of school, 8 weeks. Amount expended, $64 17. Whole number of scholars, 45: average attendance, 36. We were pleased with the good order and proficiency of this school. For a first attempt, the teacher did very well indeed. In his school register, this teacher remarks, "that a new *brick* is especially needed for a stove door, in place of the one which is broken." We would throw out the suggestion, that it might be good economy to enclose the entire stove in bricks. It is venerable with years, badly cracked with long and hard usage, and is particularly weak in the legs. One winter it fell down, we should think, at least half a dozen times, interrupting the school, hours together. The time thus

wasted, at a moderate calculation, would pay for two or three new stoves. Last winter, we understand, however, the stove fell to pieces only once.

DISTRICT No. 2.—Prudential Committee, Samuel Carr. Summer Term,—teacher, Miss Harriet Shaw. Length of school, 9 weeks. Am't expended, $22 50. No. of scholars, 20 ; average attendance, 18.

We were highly gratified with the appearance of this school at its close. The order was good, the scholars were full of animation, and presented unmistakeable proofs of progress.

Winter Term,—teacher, George Preston. Length of school, 8 weeks. Amount expended, $37 22. No. of scholars, 25. Average attendance, 21. We think the pupils made some advancement, but the order was by no means what it should have been.

DISTRICT NO. 3.—Prudential Committee, William Whittemore. Summer Term,—teacher, Miss Mary B. Williams. Length of school, 8 weeks. Amount expended, $16. No. of scholars, 45. Average attendance. 39.

This was a good school. The teacher displayed energy and tact. She was willing to pay the price of success in teaching—hard labor. No one has ever yet done well as a teacher, who was not willing to work. The young man who wishes to have an easy time in winter, if he intends to perform his duties faithfully, had better go to chopping wood, than teaching school.

Winter Term,—teacher, Miss Mary B. Williams. Length of school, 10 weeks. Amount expended, $42.50. No. of scholars, 54. Average attendance, 46. The teacher deserves the same commendation for her labors in the winter as in the summer. She did well.

DISTRICT NO. 4.—Prudential Committee, Francis Hills. Summer Term,—teacher, Miss Lydia A. Knowles. Length of school, 11½ weeks. Amount expended, $37.37½. No. of Scholars, 22. Average attendance 19.

This school appeared well at the close. The Teacher seemed to have performed her duties faithfully and efficiently.

No winter term.

DISTRICT NO. 5.—Prudential Committtee, Dudley Swain. Summer Term,—teacher, Miss B. Ann Morse. Length of school, 8 weeks. Amount expended, $24. No. of scholars, 15. Average attendance, 13.

Owing to a mistake as to the time, your committee were not present at the final examination of this school. This we very much regretted, as we have no doubt from her success in teaching in this district a year or two since, the teacher would have received our hearty approbation.

No winter term.

DISTRICT NO 6.—Prudential Committee, David Lane. Summer Term,—teacher, Miss Celia N. French. Length of school, 13 weeks. Amount expended, $38.25. No. of scholars, 27. Average attendance, 22. We think the teacher of this school labored with uncommon assiduity and conscientiousness, and with encouraging success.

No winter term.

DISTRICT NO. 7.—Prudential Committee, Wm. Tenney. Summer Term,—teacher, Miss S. P. Cochran. Length of school, 14 weeks. Amount expended, $52.50. No. of scholars, 32. Average attendance, 26.

This district enjoyed the services of a veteran teacher, who brought to her aid all the resources gained by large experience. Thoroughness, that invaluable quality, we think was the most marked characteristic of her teaching. We were highly pleased with the deportment and progress of the school.

No winter Term.

DISTRICT NO. 8.—Prudential Committee, Charles Stevens. Summer Term,—teacher, Miss Clara M. Sanborn. Length of school, 15 weeks. Amount expended, $51. No of scholars, 37. Average attendance, 26.

The examination of this school when it ended, was full and satisfactory. We think it was too much protracted, however. It is impossible that scholars should tell in half a day, all that they have learned in 3 or 4 months, nor is it best to attempt it. Especially do we consider it unwise to confine children in a school-room three or four hours at a time without a recess, even in a single instance.

DISTRICT NO. 9.—Prudential Committee, Daniel Sanborn. No Summer Term.

Winter Term,—teacher, Miss Clara M. Sanborn. Length of school, 10 weeks. Amount expended, $26.63. No. of scholars, 18. Average attendance, 16.

We are glad to be able to speak of this school in the same high terms of praise that we did last year. The readiness and correctness with which almost innumerable questions were answered, excited both our surprise and admiration. Both the teacher and the scholars must have worked about as hard as they could. Lads of sixteen and seventeen sometimes get the foolish notion into their heads that they are too large to be under the tuition of a female teacher, and will contrive to make a school unpleasant to the mistress and unprofitable to themselves. In this district, however, the oldest boys appeared to be models of industry, respectful conduct, and general good behavior.

DISTRICT NO. 10.—Prudential Committee, Isaac Lane. Summer Term,—teacher, Miss Sarah A. Emerson. Length of school, 8 weeks. Amount expended, $23.33. Whole number of scholars, 17. Average attendance, 15. This school appeared well when we were in the last day. The scholars seemed interested, and answered with promptness. The exercises were varied and enlivened by occasional recitations and songs. No winter term.

DISTRICT NO. 11. Prudential Committee, George Gammet and Addison Seavy.

Owing to the building of a new school-house, the schools for two years were brought into 1854. 1st school commencing Feb. and ending April. Teacher,—Alanson Palmer. Length of school. 8 weeks. Amount expended, $25.19. Whole number of scholars, 21. Average attendance, 16. Notice of the close of this school was given to us about a week and a half before it took place, but we regret that it was entirely forgotten

by us until too late to attend. We wish that all such notices might be given within a week of the time when our attendance is desired

2d school commenced in October, and ended in December. Teacher,—Manson Seavy. Length of school, 7½ weeks. Amount expended, $27. Whole number of scholars, 25. Average attendance, 18.

The scholars answered pretty readily the questions that were put to them at the final examination of this school, but the order was deficient.

In conclusion, we will only add that it is our hope that teachers, pupils, parents and committees may all discharge their several duties more faithfully during the year to come, than they have during the year which now ends, and that the beneficial effects of this higher fidelity may be witnessed in the greatly increased prosperity of our common schools.

LAUREN ARMSBY, In behalf Sup. School Committee